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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 20 August 1993 from the representatives of Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to address you to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Latin American Parliament in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II) are annexed to this letter.

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Permanent Representative of Brazil

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Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

(Signed) Alcibiades HIDALGO BASULTO
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(Signed) José AYALA LASSO
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Counsellor
Alternate Representative
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(Signed) Luis Felipe GALVEZ
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Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
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(Signed) Diego ARRIA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Venezuela

ANNEX I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The Latin American Parliament was established on 10 December 1964 in Lima, Peru, by representatives of the parliaments of Latin America. The States which were members of the Parliament agreed to institutionalize it by an appropriate treaty, which was signed, also in the city of Lima, on 16 November 1987 by the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The treaty is currently in force, since it has been ratified by Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Venezuela, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama and Costa Rica.

2. Furthermore, the Latin American Parliament has been granted observer status in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, by invitation.

3. The Lima Treaty of 1987 describes the Latin American Parliament as "... a permanent and unicameral regional body ..." composed of "... the national congresses or legislative assemblies of the democratically constituted States Parties in Latin America ..." which are to appoint plurally constituted delegations to represent them. In accordance with international law, this Treaty confers on the Parliament a separate legal personality and the privileges and immunities to which such international organizations are entitled under international law. The Latin American Parliament is supported by the contributions paid by the States Parties.

4. The Latin American Parliament has had its headquarters in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, since 1990.

5. The purposes of the Latin American Parliament include the following:

(a) To promote the integrated economic and social development of the Latin American community and to strive for the full economic, political and cultural integration of its peoples within the shortest possible time;

(b) To defend the full enjoyment of freedom, social justice, economic independence and the exercise of representative democracy based on strict observance of the principles of non-intervention and free self-determination of peoples;

(c) To ensure strict respect for basic human rights and to prevent their violation in any Latin American State in such a way as to impair human dignity;

(d) To strive for the elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism or any other form of discrimination in Latin America;

(e) To oppose imperialist action in Latin America, recommending appropriate standard-setting and programme-oriented legislation designed to enable the Latin American peoples to exercise full and permanent sovereignty over natural resources and to improve their use and conservation;

(f) To strive for international cooperation as a means of structuring and promoting the harmonious development of the Latin American community in the interests of general well-being;

(g) To assist in consolidating international peace and security and the international legal order and to fight for world disarmament, denouncing and opposing the arms race and aggression by those who practice power politics, which are incompatible with the economic, social, cultural and technological development to which the peoples of Latin America are entitled;

(h) To channel and support the demands of the peoples of Latin America in the international arena for the just recognition of their rights in the campaign for the establishment of a new international economic order;

(i) To work in every possible way to strengthen the parliaments of Latin America, to guarantee the constitutional and democratic life of States and to contribute, with the means available and without prejudice to the principle of non-intervention, to the restoration of those that have been dissolved.

6. The States Parties to the Latin American Parliament are of the opinion that the latter, a regional organization ratified by 11 Latin American States which are also Members of the United Nations, would derive considerable benefit if it were granted observer status in the United Nations, since it would thereby establish contact with delegations from countries outside the western hemisphere and would also make a contribution to the Organization's activities in the fields and the geographical area that fall within its competence.

7. We therefore request that the Latin American Parliament be granted observer status in the General Assembly on terms similar to those prescribed for other intergovernmental organizations.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting the desire of the Latin American Parliament for increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Parliament,

1. Decides to invite the Latin American Parliament to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.